REMARKS

Claims 16 and 20 have been amended.

In the Final Office Action, claims 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reuss (U.S. Patent No. 7,376,123) in view of the Saito (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0070067) publication. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 16 and 20, and with respect to these claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 16 to recite a service provision method, comprising: acquiring before shipment of a terminal apparatus a host address of the terminal apparatus included in a first signal as a sending side address transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to a first network; acquiring owner information of the terminal apparatus; acquiring a network address of a second network in accordance with the acquired owner information from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the terminal apparatus; acquiring after shipment of the terminal apparatus, when a second signal is transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to the second network, an IPv6 address of a sending side included in the second signal transmitted from the terminal apparatus; determining the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before shipment of the terminal apparatus to coincide with lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted second signal and the network address of the second network acquired from the database in accordance with the acquired owner information to coincide with higher-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted second signal; and providing a service, via the Internet, to the terminal apparatus via the second network. Independent apparatus claim 20 has been similarly amended. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

In accordance with the present invention, a host address of a terminal apparatus is acquired before shipment of the terminal apparatus as a sending side address included in a first signal transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to first network. See, reference no. 1 in FIG. 1 and S12 in FIG. 6 of applicant's drawings. In the determining step recited in applicant's claims 16 and 20, the sending side address included in the first signal transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to a first network before shipment is compared with the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address included in the second signal transmitted from the terminal connected to a second network after shipment of the terminal apparatus. These features of applicant's claims 16 and 20 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

In particular, neither the Reuss patent nor the Saito publication discloses acquiring, before shipment of a terminal apparatus, a host address of the terminal apparatus included in a first signal as a sending side address transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to a first network. The Reuss patent discloses a call center asset management and control system 100 which includes one or more call center assets 105, such as telephones, headsets, on-line indicator, headset lifter, etc., and, in some embodiments, includes one or more call center assets 105 in combination with a proxy 120. See, FIG. 1; Col. 3, lines 36-65. In Reuss, each call center asset has an electronic serial number 125, which is globally unique and/or mappable to a globally unique address, and which is used to identify the asset on the network 110. See, Col. 4, lines 4-6, 40-42. Reuss teaches that the electronic serial number may be the asset's Media Access Control (MAC) address or may be any number mappable to a network address, and that the asset's electronic serial number is available to a network interface 210 which can derive a network address for the asset using the electronic serial number. See, Col. 4, lines 40-50. In particular, Reuss teaches that each call center asset is shipped from the manufacturer with its

own electronic serial number, which is mappable to a globally unique network address, e.g. IP address, and that if an asset supports the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), the asset can announce its presence on the network at the time it is connected during the "discovery process" so that the DHCP server assigns a dynamic IP address to the asset. Col. 7, lines 50-67.

Thus, Reuss discloses that each call center asset in a system has a unique electronic serial number which is assigned to the asset by the manufacturer and which is mappable to a network address, such as an IP address, so that when the asset is connected to the network, the network's interface can derive the network address for the asset using the asset's electronic serial number. However, there is no mention anywhere in Reuss of a service provision method or apparatus acquiring a host address of the call center asset before shipment of the asset, from a signal transmitted from the asset as a sending side address. Rather, Reuss only teaches that the asset has a unique electronic serial number before it is shipped and that, when the asset is connected to a network, its electronic serial number is available to the network interface, but is completely silent as to transmission of the electronic serial number or of a host address of the asset before shipment of the asset.

Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 16 and 20, each of which recites acquiring before shipment of terminal apparatus a host address of the terminal apparatus included in a first signal as a sending side address transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to a first network, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the Reuss patent. Saito is also completely silent as to this feature of applicant's claims 16 and 20, and thus, amended independent claims 16 and 20, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the combination of the Reuss patent and Saito publication.

Moreover, the Reuss patent and the Saito publication fail to teach or suggest determining the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before shipment of the terminal to coincide with lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted second signal. The Examiner has acknowledged in the Action that the Reuss patent does not disclose this feature but has argued that Saito discloses determining the host address of the terminal apparatus to coincide with lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted signal in Col. 14, lines 49-67 and Col. 16, lines 41-52, where a comparison authenticates the calling session between the calling terminal and destination terminal. Applicant has reviewed the Saito publication and respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's arguments.

In particular, Saito discloses a system that includes a calling terminal (101) with a corresponding calling wireless modem (103) that communicates with a destination terminal (102) having a corresponding destination wireless modem (104) through a server (107). See, FIG. 16; Col. 11, lines 15-27. The server (107) of Saito has a database (114) that stores identifiers (IDs) assigned globally to the wireless modems (103, 104), information about private keys related to each modem and a current locator map in which current locator information indicating the device location on the network, and given by the higher-order 64-bit network prefix of an IPv6 address, is described in relation to the device ID. See, FIG. 17; Col. 11, lines 46-63. Saito discloses how terminal-to-terminal communications are established, in which the calling terminal acquires an address of a destination terminal and session key information from the server. See, Col. 13, lines 1-21. In particular, Saito teaches that when the calling terminal is authenticated, the calling terminal sends to the server encrypted name address of the destination terminal, which the server transfers to the destination terminal and makes a query about the IP

address record (AAAA record of the IPv6 record) of the destination terminal registered in the DNS. See, Col. 14, lines 12-26. In Saito, the DNS, which stores the correspondence between devices' name address and home address, provides to the server the IP address record and home address of the destination terminal, and when the server gets the home address of the destination terminal, the server checks whether the device ID of the destination terminal corresponding to the home address is registered in its database. Col. 14, lines 19-54. If the device ID of the destination terminal is found in the database, the server extracts from the database a current locator information, i.e. location identifier, corresponding to the device ID, and generates an IPv6 address of the destination terminal by combining the extracted current locator as the higher-order 64-bit address and the lower-order 64 bits of the IP address received from the DNS. See, Col. 14, lines 55-64.

Thus, Saito teaches the server acquiring the name address of the terminal, acquiring an IP address record (AAAA record of the IPv6 address) and home address of the terminal based on the acquired name address, extracting locator information from its database based on the acquired home address, and generating an IPv6 address of the terminal by combining the locator information as the higher-order 64 bits and the acquired IP address as the lower-order 64 bits. However, Saito is completely silent as to the server comparing the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before its shipment with the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address, or of determining whether the host address of the terminal apparatus coincides with the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address. Rather, Saito, in column 14, lines 49-67 cited by the Examiner, only discloses the server acquiring the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address from the DNS based on the name address of the terminal that was acquired from a calling terminal,

and using the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address in generating the IPv6 address of the terminal.

Moreover, in column 16, lines 41-52 cited by the Examiner, Saito discloses authentication of the calling terminal by the server in which the server calculates a hash value using the device ID of the calling terminal, a private key corresponding to the device ID retrieved from its database and a random number and compares the calculated hash value with a hash value it received from the calling terminal. However, the comparison in Saito of the hash values calculated by the server and the terminal based on the device ID and a corresponding private key is not in any way equivalent to comparison of the host address of the terminal received before the terminal is shipped with the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the second signal transmitted after shipment of the terminal.

Accordingly, applicant's independent claims 16 and 20, each of which recites acquiring before shipment of a terminal apparatus a host address of the terminal apparatus included in a first signal as a sending side address transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to a first network, and determining the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before shipment of the terminal apparatus to coincide with lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted second signal, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the Reuss patent and Saito publication, taken alone or in combination with one another.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application and claims is respectfully requested.

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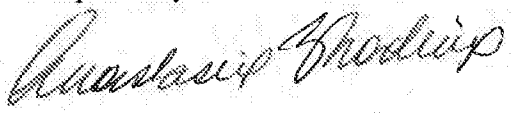
Respectfully submitted,



COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C.
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-6799
T (212) 790-9200

Anastasia Zhadina
Reg. No. 48,544